

THE CITY OF YPSILANTI NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Greetings from the City Managers' Office,

Summer is almost over, meaning students are returning to school, the weather is starting to cool off during September, and families are wrapping up vacations. We have been busy here in our community and agree that direction is essential.

Welcome back, students; we missed you all summer for those returning and moving to Ypsilanti. We want to remind you of our YpsiConnect application. Please download it and check it out if you don't have it. The application works for reporting any non-emergency issues within our community. For any immediate emergencies, please call 911. We believe in an active community and are excited about a new higher education chapter for all attending school.

Traditionally the end of summer is known as Labor Day Weekend. On the first Monday in September, we celebrate Labor Day, which is paying tribute to the contributions and achievements of American Workers. The holiday honors our nation's economic strength and our strenuous efforts in all communities. City Hall will be closed in observance of this holiday on Monday, September 5th.

This past month we had an [event with pollutants \(Hexavalent](#)

[Chromium\)](#) far upstream in our Huron River. I want to thank our partners in Huron River Watershed Council for their support in cautioning our community from use during the testing period. If this is new information to you, this is not to alarm you but to keep you informed of the occurrence. We are relieved to hear that the toxic chemicals never reached our community and for further information and updates, please visit their [website](#).

The 4th Saturday in August was Parkridge SummerFest/Joe Dulin Day. At least for the last twelve years, it was a lovely event with perfect weather. Starting at 11 AM, within just under an hour, booths were completely set up, the sound stage was warming up, and people were coming from all over the city to join. The festival included over 60 non-profits, live entertainment, softball game, and many small businesses this past year. It was impressive the turnout, along with the overall sense of community present throughout the entire day.

Also, at Parkridge Park, the Basketball courts were recently repainted, and they look fabulous. We're so fortunate to have such a beautiful park that continues growing and space with lovely events.

Did you know about Fed Up Ministries at the Ypsilanti Transit Center? (220 Pearl Street, Ypsilanti, MI



48197) Every Wednesday from 1:45-2:45, serving lunch for all. Fed Up Ministries is dedicated not to selling food but to addressing food injustice and food insecurity by offering free meals with a side of hope and dignity. What a blessing for their offering in Ypsilanti! See the flyer in the "around town" section of this newsletter!

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a concern, and we can support one another by getting vaccinated and boosted. If we are following state and county guidelines, it is our best effort to reduce the spread of the virus. Please get in touch with the local health department regarding vaccination and testing opportunities in the community. If you're feeling ill, wear a mask or stay home. We must work together as a community to keep one another safe.

Staying Connected,
Frances McMullan

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR LOIS ALLEN RICHARDSON

Greetings,
Happy September to all! Where did the summer go? Hard to believe that school has started already. Remember when we didn't go back to school until after Labor Day, the unofficial end of Summer, the last day at the pool, that weekend getaway? Summer is getting shorter and shorter, or so it seems, so let's enjoy it as much as possible.

Did you ever stop to think about where Labor Day came from or why there was a holiday called Labor Day? I remember, as a child, along with a friend playing the part of a nurse on my dad's union's float in the Labor Day parade. I certainly didn't understand what it was all about, just excited for the float and the parade. Years later, I have been able to march as a union member in the parade. I want to share a little with you about the meaning of this important holiday.

"Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day weekend

also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans and is celebrated with parties, street parades, and athletic events. Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters." Although it started as a Union day of celebration, everyone celebrates this day that honors workers and the labor movement. We have come a long way but we still have a ways to go until every worker is treated fairly and is paid a living wage.

As our students, teachers, and staff return to school, we wish everyone a safe and successful school year. We pray that everything that can be done to protect everyone will be done. Every life is precious. We must do all we can to halt all forms of violence. If you have not had the opportunity to hear the presentation of the Community Violence Intervention Team, please get in touch with me or Derrick Jackson, Director of Community Outreach at the Sheriff's Department, at (734) 973-4503 to schedule a presentation. To stop the violence, it is going to take the whole community.

On September 17th, we will be



celebrating "L.O.V.E. Is the Answer Day"; this will be the second annual celebration in the city of Ypsilanti but the fourth International Day of celebration. There will be a showing of the documentary film "Walking While Black, L.O.V.E. Is the Answer"; at Brown Chapel AME Church, 1043 Michigan Avenue, starting at 9:00am, the painting a "L.O.V.E." mural and the planting of a "L.O.V.E." garden beginning at 1:00 pm. Please get in touch with me or Gail Wolkoff, Director of Educate Youth, at 734-985-5448. The Ypsilanti Council of Elders sponsors the day.

Happy Labor Day!! Rest, find a parade, go to the pool, light the grill, go up north, take that weekend getaway, and make sure you it is a day for you. ENJOY!!!

LOVE is the answer,
Lois Allen-Richardson

CITY UPDATES

RECRUITING POLL WORKERS

CITY OF YPSILANTI RECRUITING POLL WORKERS FOR THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

Get Involved During the Exciting and Important 2022 General Election! The City of Ypsilanti is currently recruiting registered voters and youth ages 16 to 18 to serve their community as Election Inspectors during the upcoming and November 8th General elections this year.

Election Inspectors are vital to the voting process and ensure the right to vote: they make voting possible!

Inspectors staff polling locations on Election Day and are responsible for many important tasks, including the following:

- Welcoming voters and facilitating voting activities
- Verifying voter registration

- Issuing ballots
- Managing the Poll Book
- Ensuring voter privacy
- Problem-solving and answering voters' questions
- Managing ballot tabulators
- Maintaining and ensuring the accuracy of critical data

Election Inspectors serving the City of Ypsilanti are paid \$13 per hour for their work on Election Day and their

CONT. POLL WORKERS

training.


Get involved and help support the voting process. Your community needs you!

Interested persons should contact the Ypsilanti City Clerk's office at (734) 483-1100 or email Deputy City Clerk Arron Smith at asmith@cityofypsilanti.com for more information.

SOLAR REBATE PROGRAM

Residents can get at least a \$2,000 rebate for installing solar panels on their homes or business. There is \$80,000 available for rebates for anyone interested, that's enough to accommodate 40 different homes. The project has been named the Grace Sweeny Solar Rebate program and is named for the late Ypsilanti resident and wife of longtime city leader Pete Murdock.

To the businesses in Downtown and West Cross Street, beginning on July 1, 2022, there is a \$50,000 rebate for both districts. More information about the DDA Solar Rebate program in the DDA section of this newsletter.



City of Ypsilanti

Get money back when you install Solar Power!

Grace Sweeney Solar Rebate Program

Forty \$2000 solar rebates available to any resident, business, non-profit in the City.
Ten \$5000 solar rebates available for homes in the Heritage Park neighborhood which can be stack for a total of \$7000 per solar installation.

Ypsilanti DDA Solar Match Program

Buildings within the Downtown or West Cross Street DDA districts are eligible for up to a max of a \$10,000 match from the DDA per installation.

To qualify for either program, the quote from a contractors needs to be less than \$3.75 per watt.

Call a solar contractor today and get a quote to put solar power on your home, business, or non-profit.

The City of Ypsilanti is a leader in solar power and these rebates will boost our ranking as a solar leader in the State of Michigan.

For more information email cjacobs@cityofypsilanti.com or call 734.482.9801

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

- Arts Commission**
Three Commissioners
Two Youth Members
- Dangerous Bldgs**
Dangerous Buildings Officer
- Ethics Board**
One Board Member
- Human Relations Commission**
Four Commissioners
Two Youth Members
- Non-Motorized Committee**
Two Committee Members
- Parks & Recreation Commission**
Three Commissioners
One Youth Member
- Police Advisory Commission**
Two Commissioners
Two Youth Members
- Sustainability Commission**
Two Youth Members
- Ypsilanti DDA**
One Board Member
- Zoning Board of Appeals**
Two Commissioners

Fill out this [online form](#) if you are interested in the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions.



FIRE STATION UPDATE

The Ypsilanti Fire Department is always looking for opportunities for training, especially within our community. On August 30th and 31st, a chance was offered for practice in the Westview Apartments by the Rynearson Stadium. Joined with the YFD were the Fire Departments from Ypsilanti Township, Ann Arbor Township, and Superior Township. Vacant buildings are an excellent source of training for Fire Departments. Drills assist in polishing the skills needed for fire prevention within our local community.

The Car Seat Program resumes on



the 3rd Tuesday of Each Month at the Ypsilanti Fire Station (525 W Mi. Ave). The next meeting will be held on May 17th from 12 PM - 3 PM. For those who are interested in more knowledge on how to safely buckle children in automobiles, this



program is for you. There is no registration required; just show up at these meeting times. For any questions or additional information, please contact the number (734) 763-2251.

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY PARTNERING WITH CITY!



Did you know City Council recently approved a pilot program with the University Musical Society (UMS) to bring programming to the Ypsilanti Freighthouse in 2023 and 2024?

Beginning in April 2023, UMS will take over the Ypsilanti Freighthouse to bring music, theatre, and artistic programming to the community. We are working to engage local artists this fall and develop new opportunities for creative people in Ypsilanti. UMS boasts impressive credentials and connections to national artists. The six-week residency in 2023 and an eight-week residency in 2024 will allow the time and space for unique collaborations and performances at the Freighthouse. Those interested in attending events in April or September 2023 during the first year of UMS residency should follow our

newsletters and social media to find out more! UMS has committed to cap the resident ticket cost at \$10 for any performances at the Freighthouse during the residency. Those artists interested in collaboration during this residency period can reach out to [city staff](#).

This pilot program with UMS is part of a broader vital initiative to bring community programming to our City facilities and park system. We want to work with individuals and organizations to make our park system and the Freighthouse available free of use for events that are open to the public and meet our eligibility criteria. If you are interested in holding an event in the City, please do not hesitate to contact us and see if our Community Event Policy could help waive fees. We hold free community events monthly at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse and in the parks system. To find out more, you can check the city calendar of events [here](#).

POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Ypsilanti Police Advisory commission still has open positions, For those who are interested, they meet on the fourth Thursday of every month.

- Monthly presentation from YPD with an overview of stats, department staffing and activities, use of force incidents, and citizencomplaints if any.
- Presentation and discussion of the use of body cameras. You can find YPD policies and procedures involving body cameras [here](#).
- YPAC chair submitted the first annual report to the city council.

Fill out this [online form](#) if you are interested in the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions.

BICENTENNIAL



Ypsilanti's Bicentennial is coming in 2023! The bicentennial planning committee (Bicentennial City Commission) is hard at work planning a full year of Ypsilanti-inspired events and meaningful community gatherings to recognize Ypsilanti's 200th anniversary, since its incorporation on April 22, 1823.

Expect family-fun entertainment, historic-driven happenings, and even a few surprises, including opening the time capsule from the Ypsilanti Sesquicentennial in 1973!

The group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7 PM. For more information and upcoming plans, visit the [Facebook event page](#) or email ypsibicentennial@gmail.com.

PARKRIDGE BASKETBALL COURTS GET A NEW LOOK

At Parkridge Park, the Basketball courts were recently repainted, and they look fabulous.

Artist Shannon Williams, is a local artist born and raised in Ypsilanti. It has been my desire and passion of his to help improve and give back to his community. His goal was to create a safe, and clean place for the children in the neighborhood to come play basketball on an abstract design.

Shannon work alongside DPS and received initial approval from the City of Ypsilanti Arts Commission.

We're so fortunate to have such a beautiful park.



[Register for tickets here.](#)

PARKRIDGE SUMMERFEST

The 4th Saturday in August was Parkridge SummerFest/Joe Dulin Day. At least for the last twelve years, it was a lovely event with perfect weather. Starting at 11 AM, within just under an hour, booths were completely set up, the sound stage was warming up, and people were coming from all over the city to join. The festival included over 60 non-profits, live entertainment, softball game, and many small



businesses this past year. It was impressive the turnout, along with



the overall sense of community present throughout the entire day.

PARKRIDGE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

PARKRIDGE FALL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

FREE PROGRAMMING

- Math, Reading & Writing Instruction by Certified Teachers
- Small Group & Individual Tutoring
- Homework Help
- Science Experiments
- Art Projects
- Daily Snacks & Fun

Mondays - Thursdays 4PM-7PM

PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER
591 Armstrong Dr. Ypsilanti 48197

Washtenaw Community College

REGISTER TODAY!
wccnet.edu/parkridge-camp
Ages: 6-11 Maximum Enrollment 48

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other protected status in its programs and activities. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, Title IX or ADA/504 inquiries: Executive Vice President of Student & Academic Services, SC 347, 734-973-3536. If you have a disability and require accommodation to participate in this event, contact Learning Support Services at 734-973-3342 to request accommodations at least 72 hours in advance. The Student Right-to-Know and The Crime Awareness & Campus Security Act of 1990 (also known as the Clery Act) requires institutions to disclose information about graduation rates, crime statistics, and security information to current and prospective students. Individuals interested in obtaining this type of information should contact the Dean of Students office at 734-973-3328. © 2021 Washtenaw Community College.

The Parkridge Fall After-school program starts October 4th and goes till June 8th.

Mondays-Thursdays 4-7pm.

After-School Programming includes:

- Math, Reading, and Writing
- Instruction by Certified Teachers
- Science Experiments
- Art Projects
- Food Provided
- And FUN!

Ages 6 - 11; maximum enrollment: 48 per safety protocols

[Register today!](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Garaba at egaraba@wccnet.edu

ART INSTALLATION - MJS MUSHROOMS IN PROSPECT PARK

In July, the City of Ypsilanti Arts commission reviewed and approved a public art installation in Prospect Park to be considered and also approved by City Council.

Glass artist Jessica Reitmeyer installed the work in early August as a culmination of the larger body of work she calls MJ's Mushrooms. She selected Ypsilanti to install her grand finale of 100 rainbow colored glass mushrooms. The installation will remain in Luna Lake until October 8th.

"This project began as a way to recycle pieces of art I had made that could not be sold because of slight imperfections. I reheated and reworked the existing objects into a new, more organicform and the

Mushroom emerged. This was at the start of Covid. Art was disappearing, museums were closing. I know my family, like many others, began doing more things outside, so I wanted to create art that was accessible, outside, and free for all to find. That inspired me with the idea of putting one glass mushroom in a publicly accessible area in every state in the US. I know coming upon small beautiful objects on my hikes, like a beautiful rock or organic sculpture, brings me joy. So wouldn't it be joyful to come across a glass mushroom in the middle of the woods? Yes, yes it would.

There are currently 48 mushroom installations completed across the United States, US territories and internationally as well. There are 11

more US States to be installed, and I have individuals who have volunteered in each of those states to install them. An unexpected benefit of this project is the act of collaboration. People have begun interacting with my art, moving mushrooms and sharing them with others both in real life and on instagram. This has generated a diverse following on social media, with individuals from around the world reaching out to volunteer to install in their local community.

They will be placed as if they were organically coming out of the earth. I have selected a rainbow for the color palette including Black as it can represent everyone across the many hues and shades of humanity."

Follow @MJsMushroom on Instagram



EMU FOOTBALL GAME NOTICE -



Dear Fellow Community Members, On Friday, September 2nd, at 7:00 P.M., our Eastern Michigan University Football team kicks off an exciting new season inside Rynearson Stadium. All season long, we invite you to join in the family-friendly festivities that make a game day in Ypsilanti so special. Experience the excitement for fans of all ages, beginning with Eagle Walk two hours and fifteen minutes before kickoff, to fan engaging activities ranging from photos with our live bald eagle mascot, cheerleaders and dance team members to the interactive inflatable games inside our kids zone. Don't let your taste buds down either, visit one of the local food

trucks inside the stadium or enjoy a piping hot slice of Little Caesar's pizza. Then sit back and enjoy one of the largest video boards the Mid-American Conference has to offer, as we entertain the crowd with fun crowd cams and stories of our student-athletes, former EMU Legends and great accomplishments by EMU professors and local community members. And finally, listen to the sounds of the Pride of the Peninsula as the EMU Marching Band takes the field for pre-game, halftime and post-game shows. As you can see game day in the Factory is full of excitement for the entire family! Single game tickets are currently on sale and can be [purchased online](#) starting at just \$15. For more information or a full schedule visit [EMUEagles.com](#) to purchase your tickets today.

Also as a reminder, game day inside Rynearson Stadium includes pyrotechnics at certain points of the game as well as a cannon operated by EMU ROTC students and staff. Both of these elements are traditional elements that have been used throughout the years and carry sound that can be heard outside the stadium. This season, we have placed strong time limits on the use of these elements, so as not to impact the lives of our local neighbors. This includes restricting their use past certain times in the evening and after a score reaches a certain threshold. We take our commitment to being a good neighborhood partner seriously and hope that this will bring a more enjoyable experience to everyone. Happy game week to all of our community neighbors, and we hope to see you at a game this fall! Andrew Rowdon - Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs, Eastern Michigan University Athletics

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATES

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Thank you to everyone for your continued patience with the current construction situation in Downtown Ypsilanti. It's not over yet, but we have made much progress. Now, added to the Ypsilanti Road Renovation is the I-94 intersection, where MDOT has begun assembling the safe crosswalk long overdue at this overpass. At times it gets backed up, especially around rush hour. When using this intersection, please plan to leave a few minutes ahead of schedule.

The SouthBound Huron ramp to WB I-94 will be closed starting Thursday, September 1st, for work on the bike path and ramp reconfiguration. NB to WB and SB to EB entrance ramps from Huron to I-94 will continue to be closed. The planned ramp detour is NorthBound Huron St



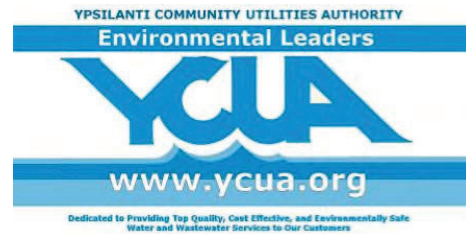
to WB Michigan Ave. back to I-94. On Wednesday, August 31st & Thursday,

September 1st, I-94 double lane closure on both bounds from 9:00 PM - 5:00 AM.

The sidewalk along Washtenaw and Anna is now complete. We are grateful the sidewalk is now accessible for all of those who use this daily in their route. Please admire the renovations taking place. There are many moving parts, but seeing the results in our community is incredible.

In the last month, Amtrak has repaired all of our Railroad Crossings (Forest, LeForge, and Superior). The delays were around a week-long at each location but are now complete. Please visit our website at [Ypsilanti Road Renovations | Ypsilanti, MI](#) for more information on the construction projects within Ypsilanti.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FROM YCUA



(August 29th) As part of the ongoing dedication to provide top quality, cost effective, and environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our customers, YCUA continues to make improvements to both existing water and wastewater utilities within the M-17 and US-12 corridors in the City of Ypsilanti. The improvements are being constructed for YCUA by DiPonio Contracting, Inc., of Shelby Township, Michigan. OHM Advisors, Inc. of Livonia, Michigan is administering the construction contract and providing full-time, on-site observation of the work by DiPonio on behalf of YCUA.

YCUA's utility improvements south of Michigan Avenue were completed several weeks ago. The construction work was transitioned to the

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), who is in the process of resurfacing/repairing those portions of the pavement not impacted by YCUA's project. YCUA's next phase of work will begin shortly after the upcoming Labor Day holiday and will encompass Washtenaw Avenue from West Cross Street easterly to North Hamilton Street then south along North Hamilton Street to Michigan Avenue. It is anticipated that the utility work in this corridor will be completed prior to the end of this construction season, but please note that is entirely dependent on weather conditions.

Similar to the earlier phases of the project, access to homes and businesses within the project limits will be maintained at all times during the project. However, through traffic on Washtenaw Avenue will be subject to a signed detour for a portion of the work. Although every effort will be made to minimize disruptions caused by the water and wastewater system improvements,

the construction work will invariably result in some inconveniences.

During these next phases of the project, YCUA expects to extend the opportunity to have fire suppression water services installed for interested properties. The work would involve the installation of a pipe and shut-off valve capped just outside the building for potential future connection. YCUA intends to obtain pricing for the installation of the fire suppression pipe and shut-off valve from the construction contractor and invoice the property owner for the cost. Further details regarding this opportunity will follow separately in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please call YCUA at (734) 484-4600 and ask for Scott Westover, Engineering Manager, at extension 220 or via electronic mail at swestover@ycua.org.



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**SEE AN ISSUE?
LET US KNOW!**

BROKEN PARK EQUIPMENT AND PUBLIC FACILITY ISSUES, POTHOLES, DEAD TREES OR BRANCHES, ABANDONED VEHICLES, GARBAGE, BLIGHT, BROKEN SIDEWALKS, ICE & SNOW, PESTS, GENERAL ORDINANCE ISSUES & MORE.

SEARCH **YPSI CONNECT** IN YOUR MOBILE APP STORE TO GET STARTED!



DDA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MEETINGS HELD THIRD THURSDAYS AT 8:30AM AT THE FREIGHTHOUSE

AUGUST 18, 2022

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS APPROVED FOR:
RUMBLE IN THE BUMBLE
ALL HALLOWS
YPSI GLOW

\$11,000 APPROVED FOR WALK, SHOP, EAT PROGRAM ON WEST CROSS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EMU

MICHIGAN AVE. CONSTRUCTION UPDATES FROM YCUA AND MDOT
DISCUSSION ABOUT FIRE SUPPRESSION GRANTS FOR BUILDING OWNERS

WILLY WONKA GOLDEN TICKET PROMOTION APPROVED FOR
AUGUST 25TH

SUPREME FELONS PRESENTATION

The DDA Staff and Board meet monthly to discuss various things that make Ypsilanti uniquely Ypsilanti. We are trying out something new here by posting a monthly meeting highlight on our channels. You can attend meetings every third thursday at 8:30am at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse (100 Market Pl.) or you can catch the minutes and packets online [HERE](#).

OUTDOOR MOVIE SERIES



The Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority has sponsored six summer movies at Frog Island Park and the Normal Street Parking Lot near the Water Tower.

On August 25th, we featured Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory at the water tower. We partnered with Go Ice Cream who graciously put together custom made candy bars for us to hand out to all our guests. Amongst the candy bars, we hid four “golden tickets”. Whoever found one of these tickets won a \$75 giftcard to a business in the DDA of their choice!

All upcoming movies begin at sunset and the tentative schedule is as follows:

September 29
(LOCATION CHANGE)
Encanto at Frog Island Park



@chrisahernphotography



Ryann found a golden ticket!



Custom Chocolate bars from Go Ice Cream



Payton found a golden ticket!

October 27
The Rocky Horror Picture Show at
Frog Island Park

We recommend you bring your own blankets, chairs, and bug spray to the upcoming films!

Please help us get the word out and bring all your friends!



EXPLORE YPSI - WEST CROSS

The Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority in partnership with EMU Engage has created a new promotion program for EMU students, faculty and staff called Explore Ypsi - West Cross.

Students, Faculty, and Staff will be able to find one of over 1200 \$10 tokens at EMU orientation, Homecoming, and at welcome back and campus events throughout September while supplies last.

The tokens are only valid at West Cross District businesses through the month of September.

After students, faculty and staff spend their token at a West Cross Business, they can assign that token to an EMU organization, department,



or hall. The group responsible for bringing in the tokens will win \$500 to a DDA business of their choice.

The goal is to introduce students, faculty and staff to visit the wonderful businesses right across the street from campus, and to

encourage them to regularly visit throughout their college years.

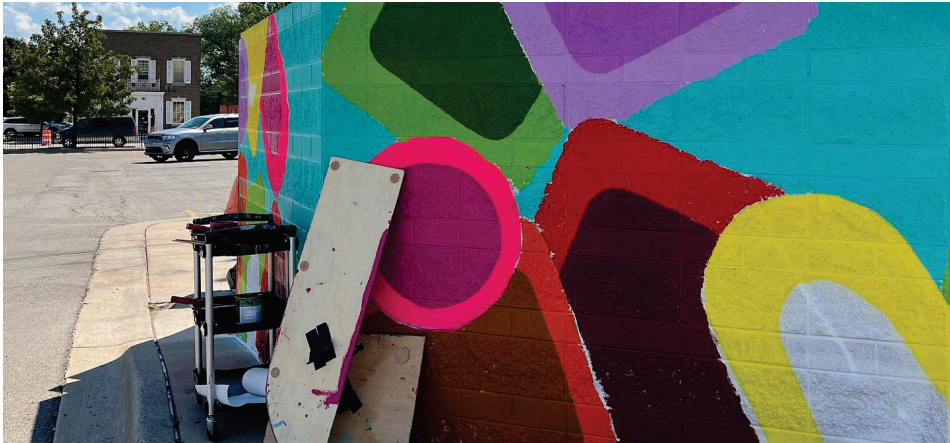
This is a pilot program for 2022, and we hope to expand the program into the other two districts in the coming years.

NEW MURALS DOWNTOWN



If you’ve visited Downtown Ypsilanti recently, you may have noticed two new murals underway in our parking lots!

The Ypsilanti DDA commissioned local muralists to bring life to the three dumpster enclosures in N. Huron, N. Adams, and S. Huron Lots. In July, we highlighted artist Lavinia Hanachiuc, who recently completed her mural in the N. Huron lot. In August, we highlighted artist Narooz Soliman who painted bright rainbow designs on the enclosure in the N. Adams lot.



Artist Gary Horton is currently finishing up the enclosure in the S. Huron lot with his iconic designs.

Be sure to check out all three and notice how they liven up all of the lots in our Downtown District!

DDA SOLAR REBATE

Did you know there's still Solar Rebates available to businesses on West Cross Street? The DDA approved \$50,000 for both Downtown and West Cross districts to help encourage property owners to install solar for their commercial properties! This program will help cover 50% of your solar installation up to \$10,000.

Ypsilanti has been a leader in solar power for the past 16 years. Ypsilanti currently has over 1.5MW of solar power which equates to 85.6 watt per capita and ranks Ypsi at 22 in the nation, on par with San Francisco, Seattle, New York, and other big cities. This is the first DDA based solar rebate program in the State of Michigan and hopefully a model for other communities to follow.

This investment represents the YDDA commitment to sustainability by leveraging up to \$100,000 in DDA TIF Revenues to complement the



existing programs recently approved by City Council. Combined with the \$80,000 Grace Sweeney Solar Rebate program approved by City Council and the \$50,000 CDBG solar allocation for homes in the Heritage Park Neighborhood, there are \$230,000 of new solar rebate dollars available in the City of Ypsilanti.

- The first come first serve process to apply is easy:
- 1) Owner gets a written quote from one or more licensed solar contractors. [A list of contractors can be found here.](#)
 - 2) Owner verifies that they have a quote

- that is \$3.00/watt or lower to qualify for rebate.
- 3) Owner sends the quote to City Hall (email or hardcopy) to reserve a rebate slot.
 - 4) Owner is sent a notice by letter or email that the project is eligible for 50% rebate not to exceed \$10,000. A rebate slot is not reserved until the owner/contractor pays for all required city building permits.
 - 5) Owner tells the solar contractor to perform the work.
 - 6) Owner/Contractor pulls and pays for all required City permits. Once permits are paid in full, the project will be notified by letter or email that a solar rebate slot has been reserved for the project.
 - 7) Solar project is complete and passes all inspections within the 6-month time limit.
 - 8) 50% Rebate check is sent to the named owner on the city permit.
 - 9) Rebate award decisions are at the sole discretion of the YDDA
 - 10) Owner will sign a hold harmless agreement with the City of Ypsilanti and YDDA for protection against any liability arising from solar installation.

For more information, contact us at: cjacobs@cityofypsilanti.com

FIRST FRIDAYS YPSI

First Fridays Ypsilanti is on Sept 2!

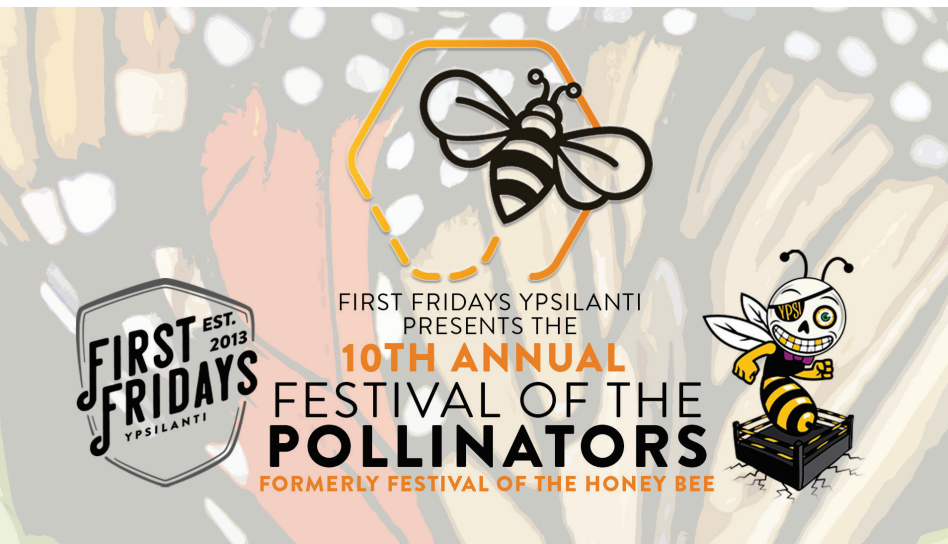
First Fridays Ypsilanti is a self-guided art and culture walk event that happens on the First Friday of each month.

Created for artists, by artists.

All FFY venues provide free events: art openings. live music. art workshops. performance arts. discounted prices and more!

Bridge Community Cafe
217 W. Michigan Ave; 4:30-9:30p
Community Pollinators
Open Market with variety of independent vendors. Spaces are free but limited; first-come first-serve. Please bring any materials you may need to vend (cash, table, etc). Bring your home projects, hidden talents, and new business ideas and test them out at this community share-market. Trade & Barter greatly encouraged.

CONT. FIRST FRIDAYS - SEPT 2



Evenstars Chalice
36 N. Huron St; 5-7:30p
Living Life as a Ritual
Local herbalist and maker is offering enchanted adornments, sacred talismans, altar wares, wild harvest herbs, weeds, wildflowers & tinctures, and nature offerings all lovingly collected and prepared by Ypsilanti's 'Living Life as a Ritual' -- celebrating the magic from the grounds, the undergrounds, higher grounds, and the all arounds!

Go Ice Cream
10 N. Washington St; 5-7:30p
Music and ICE CREAM! - Robinsongs for Kids
I scream, you scream, we all scream..for a musical ice cream social!! We'll be singing some Music Together songs - you don't want to miss our guitar/accordion combo! - and chatting about our upcoming Ypsi classes.

Hinton Real Estate
36 N. Washington St; 3:30-7:30p
You Bee-long in Ypsi
Come see us on Washington Street at the Festival of the Pollinator! We will be giving away free backpacks, school supplies, candy, AND we have a raffle for a Pollinator-themed gift basket.

Keystone Bar & Arcade
200 W. Michigan Ave; 5p-1a
First Friday' Nocturnal Pollination Party
Calling all nocturnal pollinators! Sing the night away in your favorite basement arcade bar for a costume contest and karaoke for FFY! Doors open at 5pm and Karaoke starts at 8pm and goes until 1am! Dress as your favorite pollinator to win a a Keystone Hoodie and other prizes! Costume contest winners will be announced at 12am. So come down and join us for karaoke, nocturnal pollinator drink specials, late night bar snacks, arcade games, and nostalgia all night long!

Maniacal Mead Co.
1497 Ecorse Rd; 5-10p
Disc Golf Art
Owner Jeff Fraser's disc golf-inspired art collection will be on display opposite the bar where you can try 15+ meads.

Mix Fitness Studios
Depot Town Street Closure; 5-6:30p

Bouncing Bees Trampoline Performance
Check out the instructors from The Mix Studios perform on the mini trampolines! Performances will be every 15 minutes starting at 5pm! But stop by anytime to learn more and maybe even try out a trampoline! Entertaining and seriously the best workout ever!

Red Rock Barbque
207 W Michigan Ave; 12-10p
Celebrate the Honey Bee
Come dip some RED ROCK SMOKED WINGS in our HONEY MUSTARD SAUCE and enjoy a MEAD while you're at it.

The Rocket Candy & Novelties
122 W Michigan Ave; 5-8:30p
FFY Official Merch Stop
Get your First Fridays merch here! All proceeds benefit FFY!

Stone & Spoon
110 W. Michigan Ave; 5-8p
A Specialty Tea Pop-Up with S-TEA-P
Join us as we host Samantha of sTEAp, Specialty Tea Products, in a tea pop-up where she will be serving hot samples of two of her unique tea blends!

The Gallery at Stone & Spoon (upstairs)
110 W. Michigan Ave; 5-8p
"Making the Cut" Opening Reception
A celebration of the physical act of cutting away materials to bring forward the image. Whether woodblock or linoleum block, it is a process of revelation and exploration between tools, inks and paper. That exhilarating moment of peeling back the paper from the block, reveals what has only existed in the artist's mind.

Triple Goddess Tasting Room - Unity Vibration
144 W. Michigan Ave; 7-10p
Karaoke w/Trish Kane
Trish Kane is back with First Friday Karaoke at Unity Vibration! Join us as we celebrate the Festival of the Honeybee with your favorite jams! Grab some yummy snacks and that sweet kombucha

Unicorn Feed & Supply
144 W. Michigan Ave; 5-8p
A Pop-Up with MI Green Earth
A Pop Up with MI Green Earth! Join us as they offer their healthy, sustainable, and eco-friendly products for you, your home, and your pets.

Ypsi Alehouse
124 Pearl St; 12-11p
Gallery Opening: Paintings by Nancy Flanagan/ Live Music
Nancy Flanagan is a local artist painting scenes of Ypsilanti. The Pearl St. String Band will be playing a live set from 5-7p.

Ypsi Farmers Market
16 S. Washington St; 6-9p
Downtown Ypsilanti Maker Market
In collaboration with Growing Hope and Stardust Ypsilanti, this event features local artists, makers, and more!

Ypsi Food Co-op
312 N River St; 5-7:30p
Steve Somers and Friends Jazz
Set 1 Steve Somers and Friends Jazz- Set 2 Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra and WCC students participate Set 3 Open Jazz Jam Session.

Ypsilanti Freighthouse
100 Market Pl; 6:30-9:30p
Recovery Art Gala Showcase
A night to celebrate artists in recovery. Free entry and free food. Event will also include live music and mock tail bar.
a drink, stay to enjoy the music.

Pollinator Pub Crawl
Presented by JEM Events and First Fridays Ypsilanti
Tour some of our amazing establishments for our Pollinator Pub Crawl! Costumes are encouraged, and there WILL be a costume contest at the Rumble of the Bumble. Start after work and buzz around town enjoying sample-sized drinks and entertainment that's happening on Washington Street and in Depot Town!
**Please remember to drink responsibly!!!!
Visit the FFY booth on N Washington to pick up your passport.

Pub Crawl Participants
Bellflower (3:30-4:30)
Wurst
734 Brewing
Ypsi Cocktail Club
Bobcat Bonnie's
Ypsi Ale House
Unity Vibration
Maniacal Mead
Maiz
Wax Bar
Hamburger Mary's

DOWNTOWN
Join us for our 10th celebration of Pollinators on Washington Street! We will have local vendor selling honey, flowers, and Betty Green is offering free Bee-hive Hairdo's to celebrate the day!

Children's events begin at 3:30 and include painting (presented by Tipsy Ypsi),



CONT. FIRST FRIDAYS - SEPT 2

antennae-making and book reading. Plus they can get their free backpack with school supplies at the Hinton Real Estate booth while supplies last.

Jewel Jubilee will open the event at 3:30 pm, and she and her friends will perform LIVE on STAGE beginning at 5:30 pm. At 7, join as we make our way down to Depot Town to watch the big fight!

DEPOT TOWN

This, That & the ODDer things presents Rumble of the Bumble a showdown between bumble bees and chemical pesticides-

BIG BRUCE BUZZBEE vs. GUY PHOSATE

Starting at 4pm
The street will come alive.
LIVE art mural by Curtis Wallace of BeeCreative studio Ypsi and Robin Trevino Geiseman live street artist.

Characters will lighten you on your quest for happiness. Visit Dr. BeeGood and tell him of problems, then visit the mad scientist and have your problems solved.

Big Fun Games on the Green with glorious prizes.

SALES and Merchandise tables from leading local businesses, artists booths, Bee related swag, Wellness tent with mini Reiki, Crystal, Sound and Massage services and Tarot card reader.

Special Illuminated Dance party with love from ypsiGLOW.

Special DJ's Scotty D and Ely of Detroit. Wear a costume of any pollinator or flowering sort and enter into our Festival of the Honeybee/Rumble of the Bumble costume contest!



AROUND TOWN

NATIVE PLANT SWAP



Are you willing to share extra native plants from your yard? Or are you looking for a few native plants to add?

The Library of the Washtenaw County Conservation District for a [native plant swap on October 16th, 2022](#), at the Ypsilanti District Library

(5577 Whittaker Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197) between 1 - 2:30 pm!
All gardeners are welcome to come to this potluck-style event whether or not you bring a plant to "pass." If you bring plants to share, please label them. Please bring gloves and a trowel if you want to help weed and install extra plants along the edges of the detention basin and/or pollinator garden at the Ypsilanti District Library.

Interested participants are requested to register [HERE](#) or by phone (734-302-8715) to be notified in case of event changes, and minors need to be accompanied by an adult.

FALL RIVER DAY AT FROG ISLAND

[Ypsilanti's Fall River Day](#) event is returning this year on Sunday, September 25th, from 12 PM-3 PM in Frog Island Park.

This event includes kayaking trips along the Huron River from Frog Island Park to Ford Lake. Also, activities and vendors focus on the river, recreation, or sustainability-themed exhibits and outdoor resources.



YPSIGLOW - CALL FOR ARTISTS



EVENT DATE: ypsiGLOW - Friday, October 28, 2022, 7 to 10pm
EVENT LOCATION: North Washington between Michigan + Pearl Streets + Adjacent Areas
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Monday, September 19, 2022 at 11:59pm EST
THEME: Where the Wild Things GLOW"

JOIN THE HUMAN CHAIN - MOVE THE LIBRARY

Saturday, October 08, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM It's moving day for the collection at the current Superior branch!

Help library staff move books and movies from the old location to our new branch! Be a part of a human chain, meet other library lovers, and lend a hand on this monumental day.

You'll be stationed along the path between the old and the new library, passing books down the road to their new home. Harris Road will be temporarily closed to allow participants to get materials safely across the street. Meet at 2 pm at the current location, 8795 MacArthur Blvd, to say you played a part in opening the new library!

The event will be canceled in the event of rain. See map with parking details:



WFP anticipates that selected artists will be notified during the week of September 26, 2022.

[Submission Details and Link](#)

** This call is open to all artistic disciplines—visual, music, dance, theater, literary, lighting, film, digital media, and more—and inviting interactive creations that spark wonder, dazzle, surprise, spark joy and smiles. Projects can be created by individual artists or artist teams and can include opportunities for community participation in the creative process.

For more information, please contact Stephanie McIntyre, Event Manager for ypsiGLOW, at stephmcin@gmail.com or 810-772-6603. Thank you!

YPSI FARMERS MARKETS

Ypsilanti Farmers Markets 2022

**Tuesday
Online Preorder**

Order Thurs-Sun for
pickup on Tuesday
from 3-7pm

growinghope.net/ypsi-
area-online-market

**Tuesday
Open Air Market**

Shop in person
on S. Washington st.
Tuesday 3-7pm

Use your EBT/P-EBT Card
in person or online!

**Saturday
Open Air Market**

Shop in person in
Depot Town
Saturday 9am-1pm

GROWING HOPE YPSILANTI FARMERS MARKETS

FED UP

LUNCH AT THE BUS DEPOT

SERVED BY **FEDUP MINISTRIES**

Get connected to other resources: pet food, health care, housing, substance use, and more

WHEN: WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:30PM-2:30PM

WHERE: YPSILANTI TRANSIT CENTER
220 PEARL STREET, YPSILANTI, MI 48197

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

FIND US ON [FEDUPMINISTRIES.ORG](https://www.fedupministries.org) OR
@FEDUPMINISTRIES ON FB & IG

RIVERSIDE SWINGS

RIVERSIDE SWINGS

FRIDAY NIGHTS

9PM-11:30PM
All ages
All skill levels

\$5 General Admission
\$4 Students

8PM-9PM
Free beginner lesson

What: Swing dancing! No experience or partner is required. All ages are welcome.

When: Every Friday. Free beginner lesson 8 PM - 9 PM, open dancing with DJs 9 PM - 11 PM.

Where: 2nd-floor dance studio, Riverside Arts Center 76 N Huron St, Ypsilanti

How much: Beginner lesson is free, and the open dance is \$5 or \$4 for students

Covid precautions: None

[Facebook Page](#)

BIG LITTLE FAIR

THE BIG LITTLE FAIR

A celebration of families, fun & summer in Washtenaw County

Join us in locations across Downtown Ypsilanti

SATURDAY
SEPT 10TH
FROM 12-4

On September 10th, a FREE celebration of family, fun & learning in Washtenaw County. With event locations across Downtown Ypsi, there will be so much to do & see. Features interactive exhibits from

affordable Washtenaw County youth programs, circus & theater performances, live music, food, art, & so much more! From 12-4 PM at various locations:

YOUTH CENTER @ The Riverside Arts Center

Features live music from youth performers, dance & theater workshops, robotics & science experiments, circus performers, art tours & more!

PARENTS PLAZA @ The Ypsilanti District Library

Let your kids play while you learn how various local organizations can provide support and inspiration for your household.

FOOD TRUCK RALLY @ The Ypsi Performance Space

Treat yourself to a wide variety of exciting flavors at The YPSI's Food Truck Rally.

PLUS ALL THE FUN SHOPS, BEAUTIFUL ARTISTRY & AMAZING RESTAURANTS Downtown Ypsilanti has to offer.

[Check out the full event lineup here!](#)

YPSI RUGBY

Come out to practice and join the team as rep Ypsi and compete for the Midwest Champions! No experience is necessary, as we have the coaches and structure to train you!

Come get in shape, rep the city and join the squad!

Practice every Tues / Thurs: 6 PM - 8 PM

Frog Island Park, Ypsi

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Email: ypsirugby@gmail.com

If you are interested in our women's team you can reach them [HERE](#)

RUGBY FALL SEASON

PRACTICE STARTS NOW

WE'RE GEARING UP FOR 15s SEASON

- CARDIO
- POSITIONING
- PASSING
- SCRUMS
- TACKLING
- MASTERING RUGBY

MEET THE TEAM AND JOIN

TUES/THURS 6-8PM
FROG ISLAND PARK

YPSILANTI RUGBY CLUB
@YPSI_RUGBY

YPSI VINTAGE FLEA & SWAP

YPSI VINTAGE FLEA & SWAP

TOYS, VINYL, CLOTHES, KITCHENWARE, ANTIQUES & MORE!
PLUS GOODS MADE BY LOCAL ARTISTS OUTSIDE ON THE DECK!

SUNDAYS

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ALL SUMMER LONG

DEPOT TOWN FREIGHTHOUSE
100 MARKET PLACE YPSILANTI, MI 48198

INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THIS EVENT?
CONTACT AMANDA: ypsifleaandswap@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates:
September 4
September 11
September 25

YANKEE AIR MUSEUM HISTORIC PRESENTATION NIGHT

Come join at Yankee Air Museum for September’s Historic Presentation Night on Wednesday, September 3rd, at 7:30 pm! September’s event will feature JetBlue co-founder Mike Barger as he discusses the history of JetBlue and what the company did to get the airline off the ground. Barger served as the main point of contact between the airline and the FAA as the company’s Director of Operations as well as served as the airline’s senior pilot. JetBlue flew its first flight on February 11th, 2000, and is now the sixth largest airline in the US serving 104 destinations in North, Central, and South America, the Caribbean, and the UK.

In order to guarantee entry to the

event we HIGHLY recommend reserving your tickets ahead of time via our website. Programs have a set capacity and often sell out. We cannot guarantee walk-up ticket available the evening of the program.

Yankee Air Museum members can reserve a select amount of tickets for FREE with their membership (members, don’t forget to log in to your account to see the free ticket option pop-up!); non-member tickets are \$10/person.

Interested in becoming a member? We’d love for you to join our crew! Please visit our [membership website](#) to learn more about our membership levels, benefits, and other ways to get involved.

Doors will open at 6:30pm with the program starting promptly at 7:30pm. The Museum Gift Shop will be open both before and after the presentation to shop! The program is held at Yankee Air Museum in our classroom space. Please plan to park in the north parking lot upon arrival and enter through the Guest Entrance (Gift Shop) doors. Gift Shop staff and volunteers will be there to check you in before directing you to the program space.

For more information about Historic Presentation Night at Yankee Air Museum please call the Museum at (734) 483-4030. We look forward to seeing you there!

CITY CALENDAR - AUGUST 2022 FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFO CLICK [HERE](#)

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CALENDAR

ALL HELD AT CITY HALL - 1 S. HURON UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Double Trash Week
August 29, 2022-September 2, 2022

Administrative Hearings Bureau
September 1, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

No Trash, Recycling, or Yard Waste Pickup
September 5, 2022, All Day

Administrative Office Closed - Labor Day
September 5, 2022, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste one day behind
September 6, 2022-September 10, 2022

Administrative Hearings Bureau
September 8, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Arts Commission Meeting
September 8, 2022, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Sustainability Commission Meeting
September 12, 2022, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

City Council Meeting
September 13, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Historic District Commission
September 13, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Freighthouse (100 Market Pl.)

Administrative Hearings Bureau
September 15, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Zoning Board of Appeals Special Meeting
September 15, 2022, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Bicentennial Committee Meeting
September 15, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Freighthouse (100 Market Pl.)

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
September 19, 2022, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Planning Commission Meeting
September 21, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Administrative Hearings Bureau
September 22, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Police Advisory Commission Meeting
September 22, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
City Council Meeting
September 27, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Historic District Commission
September 27, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Freighthouse (100 Market Pl.)

November General Election Absentee
Ballots Available for Voters
September 29, 2022, 8:00 AM - November
7, 2022, 4:00 PM

Administrative Hearings Bureau
September 29, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

EVENTS AND RECREATION CALENDAR

RECURRING EVENTS

Ypsilanti Farmers Market
9AM-1PM
September 3, 10, 17, 24
100 Rice St

Downtown Farmers Market
3-7PM
September 6, 13, 20, 27
16 S. Washington

Yoga at Ypsilanti Senior Center
1-2:30PM
September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Senior Citizens Center -1015 N. Congress
[Register HERE](#)

First Fridays Ypsilanti / Festival of the Pollinator
Sept 2 - All Day
Various events all evening around Ypsi

Ballard Street Festival
September 3, 2022, 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Intentional Living Collective Community Celebration
September 11, 2022, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Riverside Park

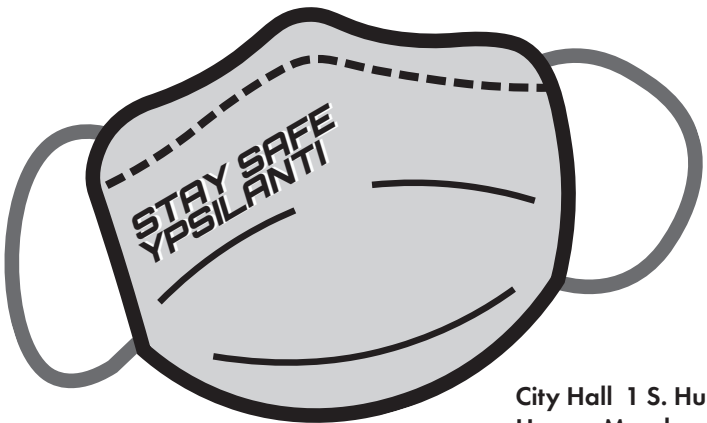
Home of New Vision Movie Night at the Park
September 16, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Frog Island Park

Homecoming 1973 Bicentennial Benefit at the Freighthouse
September 23, 2022, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Huron River Day
September 25, 2022, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Frog Island Park

DDA Outdoor Movie Series- Encanto
September 25, 2022, 7:00 PM
Frog Island Park

ADD YOUR FREE COMMUNITY EVENT ON THE CITY CALENDAR TO BE LISTED HERE. MUST BE IN OR RELATED TO THE CITY OF YPSILANTI. EMAIL [TKOCH@CITYOFYPSILANTI.COM](mailto:tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com) WITH EVENT DETAILS.



Do you have something happening in the city you’d like to share in the monthly newsletter? Email your article to tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com Submissions are due on the 15th of each month.

CITY OF YPSILANTI NEWSLETTER
COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY: THOMAS KOCH
DESIGN & LAYOUT: ELIZE JEKABSON

City Hall 1 S. Huron St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Phone: 734-483-1100
Hours: Monday - Friday: 8am-4pm cityofypsilanti.com